

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 YAOUND 03246 261802Z
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 IO-13 OES-07 PRS-01
USIE-00 L-03 /044 W
-----084170 261807Z /46
O 261800Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2672
INFO USUN IMMEDIATE 654

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 3246

FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOSQD CM
SUBJ: PRESS STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ELIOT RICHARDSON

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 3245, (B) STATE 173859, (C) STATE 169685

1. ON BASIS INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL B, LETTER HAS BEEN PREPARED AND TEXT CONTAINED REFTEL C WILL BE GIVEN PAUL ENGO DURING MEETING CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR 1030 LOCAL WEDNESDAY, JULY 27. REFTEL A TRANSMITS TEXT OF AFP ARTICLE DISTRIBUTED BY LOCAL NEWS SERVICE. WE ALSO HAVE RECEIVED A WIRELESS FILE TRANSMISSION OF YOUR PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH MENTIONS PAUL ENGO AND THE JULY 25 WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL. IN ADDITION, WHEN I MADE THE APPOINTMENT WITH PAUL ENGO HE ASKED IF I HAD THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORT.

2. AS THOSE OF US WHO HAVE HAD TO CONTEND WITH HIM PERHAPS BEST APPRECIATE, PAUL IS, EVEN IN THE BEST OF TIMES, A DIFFICULT PERSON TO DEAL WITH. I KNOW OF NO WAY THAT THESE VARIOUS STATEMENTS WILL ADVANCE OUR CAUSE WITH PAUL AND I AM CONCERNED THAT WE MAY HAVE TO DEAL WITH AN OPENLY HOSTILE INSTEAD OF A COVERTLY HOSTILE ENGO. I AM ALSO APPRECHENSIVE THAT, AS A SIGN OF SOLIDARITY WITH A COMPATRIOT WHO IS UNDER
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ATTACK, PAUL ENGO MAY EMERGE WITH NOT ONLY INCREASED SUPPORT FROM THE GURC, OTHER AFRICAN STATES AND THE GROUP OF 77, BUT WILL BECOME SOME KIND OF FOLK HERO FOR HAVING "VANQUISHED" THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE SO CALLED "HERITAGE OF MANKIND." IN THIS RESPECT I AM CONCERNED THAT WHAT APPEARS TO BE HAPPENING NOT LEAD TO A CONFRONTATION WHICH WILL UNNECESSARILY COMPLICATE OUR RELATIONS

WITH THE THIRD WORLD IN GENERAL, AFRICA, AND CAMEROON IN PARTICULAR.

3. DURING OUR BRIEF CONVERSATION I OBSERVED THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD NOT QUITE TURNED OUT AS EXPECTED AND ENGO REPLIED: "AT LEAST NOT AS SOME PEOPLE HAD EXPECTED. "I WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE YOUR COUNSEL AS TO HOW TO BEST PROCEED TO HANDLE PAUL IN ORDER TO DEFUSE THIS SITUATION IF THAT IS THE DESIRABLE GOAL. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS YOUR CONSIDERED JUDGEMENT THAT OUR INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED BY "CALLING IT AS WE SEE IT" THEN I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING SO ADVISED.

4. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE COULD BE SENT BY RETURN IMMEDIATE IN ORDER THAT I COULD HAVE THEM BEFORE OUR MEETING.
MITHOEFER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, LAW OF THE SEA, PERSONNEL CONDUCT, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Subject: PRESS STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ELIOT RICHARDSON
TAGS: PLOS, CM, US, (ENGO, PAUL)
To: STATE
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